(c) whether Government have considered to extend another opportunity to the employees who retired but did not opt for the Family Pension Scheme of 1971 to enroll in the PF Pension Scheme; and

(d) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by the Government from the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund so far.

(c) and (d) A proposal to extend the optional facility to those Provident Fund members who had not opted for Family Pension Scheme, 1971 and left service between 1.4.93 and 15.11.95 and also withdrew their Provident Fund accumulations, was examined and not found financially and administratively feasible for acceptance.

Poverty projections

*529. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty projections have been worked out for the tenth plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the basis on which projections have been worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) As a part of the Tenth Five Year Plan exercises, a methodology for making poverty projections on the basis of an econometric model has been developed and proposed to the Planning Commission. Some preliminary projections have also been made on the basis of assumed state-wise growth rates on a sectoral basis. If the methodology is accepted, further calculations will be made on the

basis of state-wise growth projections, and would be included, after finalisation, in the Tenth Five Year Plan document, which is under preparation.

United States policing duties in Pakistan

*530. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a team of American law enforcement and intelligence officials stormed several houses in Pakistan on the 28th March, 2002 and captured Taliban and Arab fighters;

(b) whether this decision on the U.S. role in policing Pakistan could help India;

(c) if so, whether India has welcomed the move; and

(d) whether India has also urged the U.S. to compel Pakistan to take action on the extremists operating in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. We have reports of raids conducted by U.S. special forces and law enforcement officials in Pakistan to capture Taliban and Al-Qaeda members, who had fled Afghanistan and taken refuge in Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Steps that effectively contribute to the elimination of terrorists and terrorist organisations in Pakistan result in discouraging cross-border terrorism against India.

(d) During consultations with the United States on counter-terrorism in the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, India has consistently advised that there cannot be a selective and differentiated approach to terrorists and terrorism.